

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00
SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EPA-01 INR-10 L-03 NSF-01
NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07 SS-15 SP-02
DOE-15 INT-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 PA-01 /119 W
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R 201655Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7412
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 04250

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECE, SENV, XH
SUBJECT: MARCH 15 WESTERN CAUCUS MEETING ON ECE 33RD
SESSION

1. ECE WESTERN CAUCUS MET AT WORKING LEVEL MARCH 15 TO
CONTINUE PREPARATIDNS FOR ECE 33RD SESSION. (REPORT ON
AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL WESTERN CAUCUS MEETING MARCH 17 IN
SEPTEL.) CHAIRMAN GRAHAM OF NORWAY ANNOUNCED THAT NORDIC
FOREIGN MINISTERS, AT THEIR MARCH 12 MEETING, EXPRESSED
SUPPORT FOR POSITIVE DECISION TO BE TAKEN AT ECE 33RD
SESSION ON HOLDING A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE ENVIRON-
MENT (HLM). DANISH REP HAD TO REMIND GRAHAM THAT
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FOREIGN MINISTERS ACTUALLY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT A DECI-
SION COULD BE TAKEN. EXCHANGE INDICATIVE OF CONTINUOUS,
AND SOMETIMES NOT TOO SUBTLE, EFFORT OF NORWEGIANS TO
PUSH CAUCUS TOWARD POSITIVE DECISION ON HLM.

2. NONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CAUCUS WERE ABLE TO
GIVE THEIR GOVERNMENT'S REACTION TO NORDIC DRAFT RESOLU-

TION ON HOLDING HLM. GRAHAM EMPHASIZED THAT NORWAY WOULD PREFER TO HAVE THEIR DRAFT INCLUDED IN AN OMNIBUS RESOLUTION, BUT THEY WERE NOT EXCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF IT BEING A SEPARATE RESOLUTION. ONLY YUGOSLAVIA INDICATED IN PRINCIPLE THEY HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH DRAFT.

3. ON TOPICS FOR HLM, GREEKS REITERATED THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE WATER POLLUTION DISCUSSED. THEY DON'T WANT THIS TOPIC EXAMINED IN DETAIL BUT FEEL THAT SOME KIND OF GENERAL FRAMEWORK TEXT CAN BE ADOPTED. WE, THE DUTCH AND OTHERS REITERATED THAT ANY TOPIC WOULD HAVE TO MEET THE CRITERIA IN RESOLUTION 1(XXXII).

4. CAUCUS DISCUSSED HANDLING OF SOVIET PROPOSAL THAT SEPARATE ITEM ON BREZHNEV PROPOSALS BE INCLUDED IN AGENDA OF COMMISSION SESSION. NORWEGIANS WERE CONSIDERING PROPOSING AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL CAUCUS MARCH 17 THAT CAUCUS STATE THEY COULD ACCEPT SEPARATE ITEM IF EAST AGREED THAT IT WOULD APPEAR AFTER ITEM 5 (THE FUTURE ACTIVITIES AND WORK OF THE COMMISSION) AND THAT DELEGATES COULD DISCUSS THE ITEM AT THE SAME TIME THEY ADDRESSED ITEM 5. HOWEVER, SWISS ASKED DID WEST NECESSARILY HAVE TO ACCEPT INCLUSION OF SOVIET ITEM ON AGENDA, AND IF WEST DID ACCEPT IT WHY NOT MAKE IT A SUB-ITEM OF ITEM 5. AS THERE WAS NO SATISFACTORY ANSWER TO THESE

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QUESTIONS, IT WAS DECIDED THAT AT MARCH 17 AMBASSADORIAL WESTERN CAUCUS MEETING NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR WOULD ONLY NOTE THAT CAUCUS COULD EITHER REJECT SOVIET ITEM, MAKE IT A SUB-ITEM OF ITEM 5, OR A SEPARATE ITEM.
(NOTE: RULES OF PROCEDURE REQUIRE THAT STANOVNIK PLACE ANY ITEM REQUESTED BY A MEMBER ON THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA. HOWEVER, SESSION ITSELF MUST TAKE DECISION ON FINAL AGENDA.)

5. MEDITERRANEAN STATES INDICATED THAT THEY WILL MEET INFORMALLY NEXT WEEK AND WILL SUBMIT CAUCUS DRAFT RESOLUTION ON MEDITERRANEAN PROBLEMS. VANDEN HEUVEL

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